

Without rank and file upon play day parades, officers would cut a poor show, and upon the battle field be of no account whatsoever. Upon a proper peace establishment, there would be no deficiency any where; officers and men would always be in readiness to embark in any kind of service.

In my estimation, in order to remedy glaring evils, so long tolerated without any successful effort for their removal, everything connected with our general militia system, proclaims that vital reform is demanded—yes, greatly needed—requiring the adoption of some military arrangement that during the enjoyment of peace would impart confidence in the bosom of our countrymen, with the avoidance of extra alarm upon the occurrence of war.

These desirable attainments can only be reached by the creation of an entire new plan, whose foundation should aim mainly at instructing our boys in the theory and practice of military science.

It is a source of no little gratification to me, that so extensive is the impression made in favour of such a measure, thought of, and recommended by the writer two years ago, to behold colleges and private schools, in imitation of the West Point Academy, are increasing in number throughout the Union, with distinguished success. Maryland may be proud that within her own borders several institutions have recognised military study for our young men.

I would, therefore, suggest—

- 1st. That a Military College be established in Maryland, as a State institution, similar to the United States academy, at West Point.
- 2nd. If the first proposition should fail, for want of patronage, then, in lieu thereof, as the last alternative, compell all our colleges and endowed academies, chartered rights not interfering therewith, to introduce therein the study and practice of military tactics.
- 3rd. The creation of uniformed, volunteer companies throughout the State, sanctioned by law—encouraged in every suitable mode—not subject to restrictions of any kind, beyond those of their own domestic rules and regulations—to be associated volunteers, uniformed at their own cost, in the real sense of the word.
- 4th. As a most valuable provision, during peace, volunteer corps, not legally to be under the command of any officer higher in rank than captains of companies.
- 5th. Ample arrangements made for keeping in commission, officers of every arm and grade.
- 6th. Enrolled, district un-uniformed companies, during public tranquility, to be forever exempt from parades, penalties or fines of any description.